



REPRESENTING ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 35

Assemblymember

**Pedro Nava**

[www.assembly.ca.gov/nava](http://www.assembly.ca.gov/nava)

**MARCH 2007**

## **35<sup>th</sup> Assembly District Woman of the Year Honored in State Capitol Ceremony in Commemoration of Women's History Month**

**SACRAMENTO** – Lupe Anguiano, Assemblymember Nava's 35<sup>th</sup> Assembly District Woman of the Year was honored at a ceremony on the Assembly floor in the State Capitol on March 5<sup>th</sup>. As part of the festivities, Lupe Anguiano, along with other distinguished women across the state, was honored at a breakfast reception hosted by Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi and had lunch with Assemblymember Nava. After the Assembly floor ceremony, Ms. Anguiano met the members of the California Legislature's Legislative Women's Caucus.

"I am humbled by Lupe Anguiano and her lifetime of achievements," said Nava. "Her continued social activism and fight for a better world is an inspiration to the community. I am very proud to recognize her. She is a tremendous role model for all."

Currently, Anguiano is a leader in the struggle to protect the California Coast from the BHP Billiton's Cabrillo Port LNG (liquefied natural gas)



Lupe Anguiano poses on the Assembly Floor with Assemblymember Nava and Speaker Fabian Nuñez

proposal, which alone would be the single largest polluter in Ventura County, (according to environmental documents, Cabrillo Port would generate 25 million tons of greenhouse gases

a year from extraction to consumption) and cause irreparable damage to marine life.

In 1949, Ms. Anguiano joined Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters. As a nun, she worked for fifteen years to improve the social, educational, and economic conditions of poor people throughout the United States. Anguiano was also a United Farm Workers volunteer, working under the direction of Cesar Chavez in Delano, California. She led the successful grape boycott encompassing the entire State of Michigan in 1965. Anguiano also became involved with the Women's Liberation Movement of the '60s and '70s. She worked with outstanding women leaders such as Gloria Steinem, Bella Abzug, and other feminists in the formation and founding of the National Women's Political Caucus and helped to bring Catholic support to the Equal Rights Amendment.

Anguiano has worked with many generations of women to move history forward and she continues that remarkable work today.

## **Important Upcoming LNG Hearing Dates:**

### **US Coast Guard**

**Wednesday, April 4, 2007**  
**5:00pm - 8:00pm**  
**Oxnard Performing Arts Center**  
**800 Hobson Way, Oxnard**

### **California State Lands**

#### **Commission**

**Monday, April 9, 2007**  
**10:00am - all day**  
**Oxnard Performing Arts Center**  
**800 Hobson Way, Oxnard**

### **California Coastal**

#### **Commission**

**Thursday, April 12, 2007**  
**Time to be announced**  
**Santa Barbara Doubletree Inn**  
**633 East Cabrillo Blvd., Santa Barbara**

Call our Ventura County District Office at 805-483-9808 for more information.

## Assemblymember Nava Introduces Tax Relief Legislation to Aid Agricultural Community in the Wake of the Freeze

**SACRAMENTO** –Assemblymember Pedro Nava introduced Assembly Bill 287 today to provide tax relief for the agriculture industry as a result of the recent devastating freezes which hit California this year. In addition he also has introduced Assembly Joint Resolution 6 that requests President George W. Bush to declare a federal major disaster area in the areas of California that have been adversely impacted by the recent freezing weather.

"I have seen first hand the significant losses farmers, nursery owners and others have suffered because of the unusual freeze in California. "When I met with growers, they all said tax relief would be important. However, this alone will not be enough," said Assemblymember Nava. "I am calling on the president to provide all the necessary assistance and help at his disposal for California Agriculture."

Specifically, AB 287 would give employer retention tax credits to agricultural businesses that have suffered crop losses due to the recent freezing weather. The tax credit will assist business owners to recover their losses and retain valuable workers. Effects of the freeze are still not fully known, and many crops will be impacted for years to come. Should the president declare a major disaster, California would become eligible to receive federal assistance funds from FEMA and the U.S. Department of Labor that provides assistance to families, public agencies, workers, and farmers. This is critical because freeze damage is already estimated at over \$1.3 billion.

The Governor of California declared states of emergency in multiple counties beginning in January and February 2007 due to natural disasters. The proclamations qualified the affected persons and counties for various forms of state assistance. Assemblymember Nava's measures will compliment other legislation that was introduced to bring relief and economic aid to business owners and workers. The U.S. Department of Agriculture will also will be providing emergency farm loans, and a farm loan guarantee program will be made available by the California's Business, Transportation and Housing Agency.

To express your support for Assemblymember Nava's legislation or to get more information on the various programs available to those impacted by the freeze, please call (805) 564-1649.



Assemblymember Nava (right) inspects freeze damaged strawberries in Oxnard.

## Assemblymember Nava's Tax Assistance Fair Yields Big Savings for Ventura County Residents

**Close to \$100,000 in taxpayer refunds**

**OXNARD**-On Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, Assemblymember Nava hosted an Earn it! Keep it! Save it! Income Tax Assistance Fair, in conjunction the Financial Empowerment Partnership, which is made up of agencies and organizations such as the United Way of Ventura County, Ventura County Human Services Agency, and the Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation and the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program. The VITA Program is a joint effort by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the State Franchise Tax Board to help taxpayers with basic tax returns. They specialize in assisting disabled taxpayers, those with low to limited income, and non-English speaking taxpayers.

The tax assistance fair was held to help individuals claim the often overlooked Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) that can be worth up to \$4, 536.



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### ***Tax Assistance Fair--Continued from page 2***

Yet up to a quarter of eligible taxpayers fail to claim the EITC. The EITC is designed to offset Social Security taxes and help working families get out of poverty. The refund amount is based on income, filing status and the number of qualified children in the family. Even families who owe no taxes may be eligible.

Even before the doors opened at 10:00 am, a line had already formed of eager taxpayers ready to file their taxes. Approximately 80 taxpayers took advantage of the free tax assistance and the opportunity to electronically file their taxes. By electronically filing, taxpayers receive a refund in a matter of weeks, thereby helping to reduce the number of low-income taxpayers who take out high interest refund-anticipation loans. By the end of the day, close to \$100,000 in refunds were processed, money that is circulated back into the local economy.

## **Ventura County's Agricultural Worker Transportation Program Grant Application is Touted as a Model by Caltrans**

**VENTURA**-The Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) submitted a planning grant proposal to the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in January to establish an Agricultural Worker Transportation Program (AWTP) in Ventura County. Assemblymember Nava, as former Chair of Assembly Budget Sub-Committee on Transportation, created the \$20 million fund to establish AWTP, which offers public transportation options to farm workers who often live far from work, but have few resources for their commute. Caltrans contacted VCTC officials and congratulated them



for their "exemplary AWTP grant application." Further, it will use its application as a model for future planning grant applicants across the state.

AWTP was originally created in response to numerous horrific traffic accidents involving farm workers, including the death of 13 field laborers in Fresno. It is estimated that close to 100 deaths have occurred in the last decade. Safety concerns include untrained drivers, lack of seat belts, poor vehicle safety, and improper storage of tools. Most non-permanent agricultural workers do not have access to reliable transportation and many private vehicles used by workers are in poor states of repair. AWTP provides vans and buses for licensed farm workers who operate the vehicles and pick up other laborers.

## **Ventura County Business Resource EXPO to be held on Friday, April 20<sup>th</sup>**

In an effort to bring together as many public and private resources to the Ventura County business community, Assemblymember Nava is partnering with the California Small Business Association, the Ventura Chamber of Commerce, Oxnard Chamber of Commerce and the Gold Coast Hispanic Chamber of Commerce to sponsor a Business Resource EXPO on **Friday, April 20, 2007 at the Four Points by Sheraton, 1050 Schooner Drive, Ventura from 8 a.m. to Noon**. The public is invited to come learn how to start their own business or how to become qualified to do business with federal, state and local government. Many public and private agencies will be on hand to provide information and resources. For more information please call (805) 483-9808.



## Santa Barbara Fruit Fly Eradication Update

**SANTA BARBARA-** In February, Jim DeBoo, Assemblymember Nava's Chief of Staff, traveled to Santa Barbara to meet with Santa Barbara County 2<sup>nd</sup> District Supervisor Janet Wolf, Santa Barbara City Councilwoman Helene Schneider, and community activists to discuss Naled pesticide applications used to eradicate the Oriental Fruit Fly in Santa Barbara County.

Supervisor Wolf and Councilwoman Schneider have demonstrated leadership on this issue. Questions surrounding the application of Naled began to arise during the summer of 2006 when the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) began a Naled application program to deal with the Oriental Fruit Fly throughout residential neighborhoods in the City of Santa Barbara and unincorporated areas of Santa Barbara County. Community groups felt CDFA had not fulfilled their notification process which allows the local governments, elected officials, and community leaders time to prepare residents for the impacts of the application. Thoughtful discussion regarding the effectiveness of Naled and the possibility of other less toxic pesticides were raised. How can the state and local agencies better interact when an application of Naled is scheduled to occur?

On behalf of Mr. Nava's office, DeBoo is working with the state agencies involved in regulating pesticides to answer questions raised during the meeting. A follow-up will occur in late March or early April.



Supervisor Janet Wolf (left) and Councilmember Helene Schneider (right) have taken leadership roles on the Naled issue to protect our neighborhoods in Santa Barbara

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